

1   What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     In an external disk drive system comprising a disk drive, a bridge controller  
2     comprising a plurality of Bridge Controller Host (BCH) interfaces adapted to establish  
3     communication between the external disk drive system and an external device via a  
4     plurality of different communication mediums, a method for switching from a first BCH  
5     interface communicating with the external device via a first communication medium to a  
6     second BCH interface during the operation of the external disk drive system, the method  
7     comprising:  
8                 sensing a connecting of a second communication medium to the external  
9     disk drive system via the second bch interface;  
10                determining an interface priority of the second communication medium  
11     over an interface priority of the first communication medium;  
12                dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium based on  
13     the determining; and  
14                mounting the disk drive to the second communication medium wherein the  
15     external disk drive system remains operational during the dismounting and mounting.  
1           2.     The method of claim 1, the dismounting further comprising:  
2                 communicating a request for dismounting the first communication medium  
3     to the external device via the bridge controller host interface; and  
4                 dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium if the  
5     valid response is received from the external device.  
1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the external device is a host computer.  
1           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system is adapted to  
2     communicate with a plurality of external devices via the plurality of BCH interfaces and  
3     the plurality of different communication mediums.  
1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, the dismounting and the  
2     mounting are performed by firmware executed in the bridge controller.  
1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the first  
2     communication medium is pre-assigned.  
1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the second  
2     communication medium is pre-assigned.

1           8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system further  
2 comprises a storage device in communication with the external device via the first  
3 communication medium, and wherein the storage device remains in communication with  
4 the external device.

1           9.       The method of claim 1, wherein the first communication medium  
2 comprises a universal serial bus (USB) cable.

1           10.      The method of claim 1, wherein the second communication medium  
2 comprises a Firewire™ cable.